

ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT
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Dr. Hedley
Medical Officer of Health.

Rothbury,
Northumberland,
30th July, 1946

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1945

I beg to present my report for the year 1945 once again in its war-time abbreviated form.

NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED:- Male 45, Female 26 Total 71.

This is one less than in the previous year, the numbers as regards sex being exactly reversed. Illegitimate births numbered eight.

The birth rate per 1000 was 11.8 compared with 16.1 for England & Wales. There were 3 still births, the rate per 1000 being 0.50 (Eng. & Wales 0.46).

NUMBERS OF DEATHS REGISTERED - Male 29 Female 38 Total 67. compared with 85 for 1944.

The rate per 1000 was 11.1 and for England & Wales 11.4.

There were 3 deaths in infancy (i.e. under 1 year of age).

There were no deaths due to measles or whooping cough.

THE CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH WERE AS FOLLOWS:-

Heart disease	19
Cancer	10
Cerebral haemorrhage	9
Violence (including suicide)	6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES Ninety five cases were notified compared with 87 in the previous year.

They were classified as follows:-

Measles	63
Pneumonia	8
Erysipilas	7
Scarlet Fever	6
Dysentery	6
Malaria	4
Acute poliomyelitis	1


The majority of the measles cases occurred in the Netherton School Area. Two cases of pneumonia and the one case of poliomyelitis proved fatal. There were no cases of diphtheris during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS - Eight cases were notified, 5 relating to the lungs and 3 to other parts. This is an increase of 3 lung cases compared with 1944 but one of these was a non-civilian.

VENEREAL DISEASE- On this subject I can only re-affirm my opinion that this plague was and is very rare in the district. No official action was required to combat infestation by head-lice.

WATER SUPPLY - I am indebted to your Sanitary Officer for this brief survey of the Water supply:-

"The Area is supplied throughout by springs and apart from one or two isolated cases in the private supplies - adequate and good water was maintained during the past year. Attention has or is being given to these inadequate supplies by renewing pipes and in some cases providing new sources. The supplies at Rothbury Longframlington, Elsdon, Whittingham Thropton and Harbottle administered by the Council & serving about 60% of the population, were well maintained and despite an inflated number of consumers through military occupation provided an adequate supply of good water for all needs. One or two temporary shortages were experienced at Whittingham due to mechanical breakdown. It is hoped to provide a gravitational supply and dispense with pumping - additional storage would be advantageous at several of the supplies".



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REMARKS: The year 1945 was generally cold and sunless. The end of the war did not bring the end of restricted and monotonous diet - fats and fruit were in very short supply and the meagre ration of coal did not contribute to comfort and general well being. Despite these adverse facts the health of the community remained satisfactory and the thought that "man does not live by bread alone" ought to be comforting and consoling in these stringent times.

Signed A. S. Hedley

